(c) whether it is also a fact that around 90 drugs have been identified for category-I;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is reducing the number to 30 drugs without any basis or justification;

(e) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is proposing to increase the mark up on this category from existing 40 per cent end 55 per cent to 75 per cent;

(f) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has proposed to remove overall profitability of the drug industry;

(g) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is not proposing any expenditure control on drug industry to prevent them from siphoning off profits; and

(h) if so, what are the details of the steps proposed to safeguard the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The exact number of drugs being used in the country is not available.

(b) to (d) The names of drugs to be included in proposed Category-I and II have not been finalised by the Government.

(e) to (h) The details of measures announced by the Government in December, 1986 are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India" copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Price control on drugs

1005. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently held that price control under the Essential Commodities Act is to protect the consumer and not the producer;

(b) whether it is a fact that the measures proposed by his Ministry in this regard are contrary to provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the recent decision of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed measures like expansion of price decontrol on medicines, removal of overall profitability control, irrational classification of medicines for price control and decontrol free hand for trade discount, commission, advertisement expenses;

(d) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has directed to reduce the list of drugs for category-I even after identification; and

(e) if so, how such a price control would be in the consumer's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The Supreme Court in their judgement have upheld the prices fixed by the Government under Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 which has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India". Copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(d) and (e) Government have not yet finalised the list of drugs which would form proposed Category-I.

Proposal to decontrol prices of drugs

1006. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to decontrol the prices of 70 per cent of medicines;